

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 02774 161617Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 161316Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1662
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2774

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JO, US
SUBJECT: JORDANIAN OFFICIALS COMMENT PUBLICLY ON KING
HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO U.S.

1. TWO HIGH OFFICIALS WHO ACCOMPANIED KING HUSSEIN ON
RECENT VISIT TO U.S., CHIEF OF ROYAL COURT 'ABD AL-HAMID
SHARAF AND MININFO ADNAN ABO 'ODEH, HAVE COMMENTED PUBLICLY
IN AMMAN IN HIGHLY FAVORABLE TERMS ON WASHINGTON TALKS
BETWEEN U.S. AND JORDANIAN LEADERS. IN LOCAL PRESS AND
TV INTERVIEWS GIVEN WIDE CIRCULATION HERE, SHARAF AND ABU
ODEH TERMED VISIT "THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EVER." MAIN THEMES:

A. PRESIDENT CARTER'S "COURAGE AND READINESS TO UNDERSTAND"
INTRICACIES OF ME PROBLEM IN GENERAL AND JORDAN'S POSITION
IN PARTICULAR "GIVES US CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM." WARM
PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH DEVELOPED BETWEEN KING AND
PRESIDENT CONTRIBUTED TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

B. U.S. OFFICIALS CLEARLY OUTLINED AMERICAN
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 02774 161617Z

POSITION TOWARD VARIOUS ME ISSUES. THIS CLEAR
STATEMENT OF U.S. INTENTIONS (LEFT UNDEFINED IN
INTERVIEWS) WILL ALLOW ARABS TO UNIFY STANCE FROM
WHICH TO RESPOND. KING HUSSEIN PRESENTED MAIN POINTS
OF ARAB STANCE WHILE IN WASHINGTON.

C. U.S. IS NOW CONVINCED THAT PALESTINIANS

MUST PARTICIPATE IN ANY FUTURE ME NEGOTIATIONS. THIS CONVICTION IS FOUNDED ON BELIEF THAT PALESTINIANS MUST HAVE THEIR OWN HOMELAND IN WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP, AS WELL AS RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

D. JORDAN WILL CONVEY RESULTS OF HUSSEIN-CARTER TALKS TO LEADERS OF OTHER CONFRONTATION STATES. TO THIS END, SHARAF VISITED CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA MAY 14. (HE SAW ASAD EARLIER IN GENEVA ON MAY 9.) FURTHER ARAB SUMMITS ARE HINTED AT IN PRESS FOLLOWING ARAB LEADERS' MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER.

2. COMMENT: UPBEAT NATURE OF RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS CONTRASTS STRONGLY WITH WARNINGS AGAINST OVER-OPTIMISM WHICH WERE BEING DISSEMINATED PRIOR TO KING'S DEPARTURE. WHILE JORDANIAN PUBLIC MAY BE RELUCTANT TO ABANDON SKEPTICISM CONCERNING PROSPECTS FOR ME PEACE SETTLEMENT IN NEAR FUTURE, KING HUSSEIN'S VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE LAID TO REST--AT LEAST TEMPORARILY--RUMOR ABOUT U.S. SPONSORSHIP OF PALESTINIAN STATE EAST OF JORDAN RIVER. LOCAL PRESS REACTION TO ISRAELI ELECTIONS SHOULD PROVIDE NEXT INDICATION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT CURRENT OPTIMISM IS PASSING PHRASE.
PICKERING

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